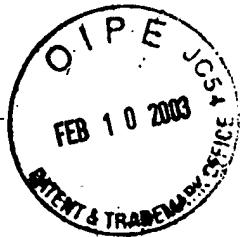


#15



Patent

Attorney Docket No: AM-00102.P.1-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:)

Efimov et al.)

Examiner: McKenzie, Thomas C.

Application Number: 09/805,296)

Group Art Unit: 1624

Filed: March 13, 2001)

For: OLIGONUCLEOTIDE)

ANALOGUES, METHODS OF)

SYNTHESIS AND METHODS OF USE)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C., 20231

Sir,

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Office Action mailed December 18, 2002, Applicants submit the following election and traverse. Applicants submit this response within two months of that mailing date. Thus, a one month's extension of time is deemed appropriate and the fee of \$55.00 is included herewith and such extension is respectfully requested. Accordingly, this Response is timely filed.

02/11/2003 MAHMED1 00000014 09805296

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ELECTION

In the Office Action, the Examiner restricts the claims to eleven distinct and independent inventions.

The above identified patent application has been examined for restriction purposes only. The Examiner has set forth the following groups:

Group Number	Claim Parts	Subject Matter
I	97-99- and 102-105	Pyrrolidine compounds with B=Hydrogen
II	97-107	Purine compounds with B=purine
III	97-107	Pyrimidine Compounds with B=pyrimidine
IV	97-100 and 102-106	All other aromatic, heterocyclic, intercalator, or reporter compound with B=triazolopyridine or anything other than a purine or pyrimidine
V	108-113	Phosphorous-containing purine and pyrimidine compounds with B ² = a Purine or a pyrimidine
VI	108-111	All other phosphorous containing aromatic, heterocyclic, intercalator, or reporter compounds with B=triazolopyridine or any ring other than a purine or a pyrimidine
VII	114-115	Hybridized nucleic acid molecules
VIII	116-117	Solid support molecules
IX	118-121	Method of detecting nucleic acid
X	122-126	Method of purifying a nucleic acid
XI	127-129	Method of recombination

Applicants elect the invention of Group V, identified by claims 108 through 113. This election is made with traverse because of the commonality of the subject matter of the eleven Groups, and as such the USPTO would not be unduly burdened by searching and examining all Groups.

CONCLUSION

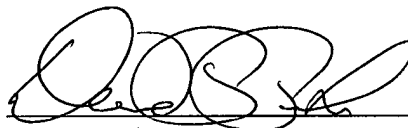
Based on the commonality of the subject matter of the amended claims, Applicants request that the Examiner join the claims of Groups I through XI into a single group. For completeness, Applicants have elected the claims of Group V for examination. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are ready for examination and in condition for allowance.

Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account Number 501321 in the name of David R. Preston & Associates, having Customer Number 24232.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

February 3, 2003



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